

Message

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ECOSWIRE

Friday, December 7, 2018

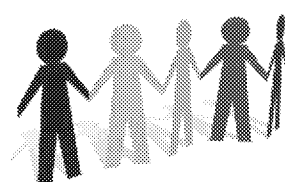
Vol. 20 No. 46

Table of Contents

- [ECOS Tees Up Agenda for Spring Meeting on Partnership in Action](#)
- [U.S. EPA Proposes Less Stringent Regulations for New Coal-Fired Power Plants](#)

- [Congress Poised to Fund Government thru December 21](#)
- [Several States Participate in U.S. EPA Lean Summit](#)
- [Member Transitions](#)
- [State News You Can Use](#)
- [Need-to-Know News in Air & Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

ECOS Tees Up Agenda for Spring Meeting on Partnership in Action



ECOS is pleased to announce that registration is now open for our [2019 Spring Meeting on Partnership in Action: Advancing Collaboration, Certainty, & Confidence](#). Consistent with the [vision](#) articulated by ECOS President Becky Keogh of Arkansas, the **April 8-10** gathering in Crystal City, Virginia will enable states to use their seat at the table achieved through Cooperative Federalism 2.0 to promote shared decision-making, shared problem-solving, and shared programmatic development.

Featured speakers will include ECOS members, congressional and state legislative leaders, and U.S. EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler (invited) and other federal agency officials. A new member orientation session for new and current members will be held during the late afternoon of **April 7**, and states-only business will be conducted on the morning of **April 10**. Discussions with EPA Headquarters officials and Regional Administrators are tentatively planned for the afternoon of **April 8**. The meeting also will include a dinner reception at the Canadian Embassy on **April 9**.

Register by **March 1** to receive the early bird rate, and reserve at the special ECOS rate at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View hotel by **March 18** or sooner, as the room block could fill up.

To register or receive for more information on the draft agenda and hotel, visit the meeting link above. For information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact [Lia Parisien](#) of ECOS. [Parisien]

U.S. EPA Proposes Less Stringent Regulations for New Coal-Fired Power Plants

On December 6, U.S. EPA released a [proposal](#) to revise the New Source Performance Standards for greenhouse gas emissions from new, modified, and reconstructed fossil fuel-fired power plants.

EPA proposes, under Clean Air Act section 111(b), to revise its determination of the best system of emission reduction (BSER) for these plants. Instead of continuing to require new coal plants to use partial carbon capture and storage technology as the BSER, the Trump Administration proposes to determine that the BSER is the most efficient demonstrated steam cycle in combination with best operating practices. In addition, the proposal would limit carbon dioxide emissions to 1,900 pounds per megawatt-hour of electricity instead of the current 1,400 pounds.

More information can be found on EPA's website. The comment period will be open for 60 days once the proposal has been published in the *Federal Register*. [Poole]

Congress Poised to Fund Government thru December 21

Congressional and White House leaders announced early this week that they will pass a Continuing Resolution to fund U.S. EPA and other government agencies at FY18 levels through December 21.

Negotiators appear to have reached this decision to extend funding beyond December 7 due to the death of President George H.W. Bush, which interrupted most legislative activity this week. [McAleer]

Several States Participate in U.S. EPA Lean Summit

Last week, representatives of several states attended U.S. EPA's Lean Management System (ELMS) Summit in Dallas, Texas. The three-day meeting featured trainings on how to work with and within the ELMS system, as well as other Lean-related presentations by a number of high-level officials. State presenters included Doug Barry, Process Improvement Coordinator at the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and Rob Woods, Administrator of the State of Arizona's Government Transformation Office.

Other states represented at the meeting were Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Iowa, Idaho, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming. Many states offered positive feedback on the experience, and some hope to establish their own ELMS-like systems or are already in the process of doing so. One state attendee commented that "the EPA [ELMS] team is strong, and many of the states will be by their side to help achieve the ELMS goals – for [EPA's] human and environmental health goals are also our goals."

The collaboration will continue well beyond the meeting, with additional opportunities planned for states to learn about ELMS and how to interface effectively with it. EPA will soon share meeting materials and session recordings from last week, so stay tuned!
[McAleer]

Member Transitions

ECOS welcomes our new members and wishes a fond farewell to our departing ones. We hope to see all of you at future member meetings!

Brune Succeeds Hartig in Alaska



Jason Brune

Alaska Governor-elect Mike Dunleavy has tapped Jason Brune to become Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. He succeeds Larry Hartig, who departed December 3 after having served in the position since 2007.

Brune most recently was Land and Resources Senior Director for Cook Inlet Region, Inc., an Alaska Native corporation that is Southcentral Alaska's largest private landowner. He also worked for the Resources Development Council and for the mining company Anglo American. He has a degree in biology and has served on boards including the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Recovery Team and Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Committee. [Parisien]

Pirner Stays on in South Dakota

South Dakota Governor-elect Kristi Noem has announced that Steve Pirner will stay on as Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources. Pirner was first appointed Secretary in 2000 and has been with the department since 1979. [Parisien]



State News You Can Use

[Tennessee Governor Unveils Statewide Water Availability Plan](#)

[Ohio Seeks Early Stakeholder Input on Potential Oil and Gas Rules](#)

[Illinois Funds Public Transportation for the Most Vulnerable Residents](#)

[Maine Announces 2018 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence](#)

**Need-to-Know News in Air & Chemicals and
Emerging Contaminants**

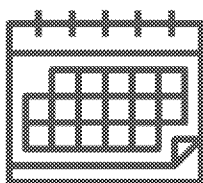
States Showcase PFAS Progress at Air Association Meetings

Area of Focus: Air, Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manmade chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and many others. While they have been used in the U.S. since the 1940s, they are now considered emerging contaminants, and states are working hard to address the issue. While the focus has generally been on water treatment, many state agencies are seeking to address the problem at the source by adding emissions controls where needed to prevent atmospheric deposition.

This past fall, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, and ECOS presented on state efforts to identify sources and institute controls on these emerging contaminants at the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) Fall Meeting. Meanwhile, North Carolina detailed its process to track and address Gen X at the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA) Fall Meeting.

More information on related state efforts is on the ECOS website. NACAA has also created a webpage to track air-related updates, and additional information can be found in both English and Spanish on the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) PFAS webpage. [Poole]



Upcoming Events

U.S. EPA on National Water Program Guidance

U.S. EPA's Office of Water will hold a call with states and state associations on **December 10 at 1-2 p.m. Eastern** to discuss measures that serve as the basis for the FY and FY 2020-2021 National Water Program Guidance.

To participate, please call (202) 991-0477 and enter conference ID 2021895. If you have questions, please contact [Christopher Gollan](#) of U.S. EPA's Office of Water. [Piper]

ECOS & U.S. EPA on Compliance Research for Effective Government

Next up in ECOS and U.S. EPA's webinar series *Compliance Research for Effective Government* is a look at the New Hampshire Hazardous Waste Generator Training Program on **December 11 at 1-2 p.m. Eastern**. The webinar will feature Tim Prosport of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Dr. Sarah Strafford of the College of William and Mary.

Register for the webinar [here](#). For more information, please contact [Sonia Altieri](#) of ECOS. [Altieri]

ITRC on PFAS

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) invites you to participate in its PFAS training in Grand Rapids, Michigan on **December 13**. This eight-hour training will focus on PFAS regulations, site characterization, sampling and analysis, AFFF, treatment technologies, and risk communication. The training is FREE for state and federal regulators, and travel scholarships are available for participants traveling 50 miles or more.

Learn more and register [here](#). [Olonoff]

U.S. EPA on Methane Mitigation

U.S. EPA's Natural Gas STAR and Methane Challenge Programs invite states to participate in the *Data-Driven Decision Making for Cost-Effective Methane Emission Mitigation* Workshop on **December 14**. ECOS has partnered with these U.S. EPA

programs on methane reduction through the Shale Gas Caucus.

The workshop, to be held at Pacific Gas and Electric's facility in downtown San Francisco, will focus on the use of data and analytics in the oil and natural gas industry to drive operational changes to mitigate methane emissions. The workshop is free, but registration is required. Learn more and register [here](#). [Parisien]

U.S. EPA on ORD Technical Support Centers

U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development will host its monthly Tools and Resources webinar on **December 17 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern** to discuss its Technical Support Centers, which provide technical assistance to EPA regional and program offices for contaminated site cleanup.

To learn more about the centers and how to access their support, register for the webinar [here](#). [Longworth]

U.S. EPA on Disaster Recovery Response Tool

U.S. EPA will host a webinar on **December 18 at 2:30-3:30 p.m. Eastern** to highlight EPA Region 5's innovative [Disaster Debris Recovery Tool](#). The tool promotes effective recovery, recycling, and disposal of disaster debris for federal, state, tribal, and local emergency planners and responders. Through the E-Enterprise initiative, the tool will expand in 2019 to 35 states and be accessible through the [E-Enterprise Portal](#).

Register for the webinar [here](#). [Parisien]

U.S. EPA on ECHO

States are invited to join U.S. EPA for its next Intro to ECHO (Enforcement and Compliance History Online) webinar on **December 18**. This webinar is one in a series that provides basic demonstrations of searching and navigating the website. Participants will learn how to use ECHO in your communities and workplaces to identify facility history with compliance and enforcement. Note that this webinar is repeated every six months. Registration will open soon [here](#).

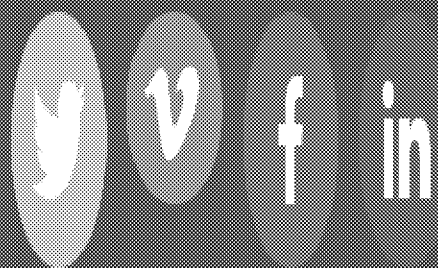
The subsequent ECHO Webinar will be held in March 2019, with details posted on the ECHO training page in early 2019. Topics for future webinars will be selected based on user feedback, and every six months U.S. EPA will highlight a new tool.

For more information, contact Rebecca Kane of EPA. [Piper]

Colorado State University on Oil & Gas Equivalency

For those interested in the ongoing ECOS Shale Gas Caucus effort to promote oil and gas alternative air compliance pathways, you may want to attend the Colorado State University (CSU) *Path to Equivalency Workshop*. The meeting is planned for **January 8-9** in Fort Collins, Colorado. Participants must RSVP for the event.

To reserve or to receive more information, contact Kristine Bennett of Colorado State University. [Parisien]



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